

Rural District Council of Highworth

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1948

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Highworth Rural District Council

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health —

R. P. BEATTY, M.D., D.P.H. (CAMB.)

A part-time officer who acts only for the Rural District.

Senior Sanitary Inspector —

A. G. UNDERWOOD, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

MEAT AND FOOD CERT. CERT. NAT. INST. BUILDERS.

Additional Sanitary Inspector —

F. R. G. SELWOOD, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MEAT AND FOOD CERT.

Unqualified Assistant to Sanitary Inspector and Rodent Operator —

D. L. WALKER.

Shorthand-typist —

MISS J. O. BUTT.

Changes in Staff.

During the year under review the Additional Sanitary Inspector Mr. H. F. O'Connor, left the Councils' employment due to obtaining a Senior Appointment with the Faringdon Rural District Council. Mr. F. R. G. Selwood who is fully qualified was appointed in his place and took up his duties on 23rd August, 1948.

Offices.

The offices of the Public Health Department are apart from, but near to the Rural District Council Offices, and are situated at 27 Bath Road, Swindon. The main offices and the Public Health Offices are connected by telephone.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Highworth Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1948 on the health and conditions of the Highworth Rural District.

There has been no serious epidemic, except for Measles in the Parishes of Chiseldon, Highworth, Stratton and Wanborough. It is interesting to note that these Parishes had fewer cases in 1947, and other Parishes where there were a large number have evidently had no susceptible children, as a result of previous epidemics in these areas.

For the third year in succession there has been no notification of any cases of Diphtheria, thanks to immunization against this disease.

I have to thank the members of the Council for their consideration at all times, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector and staff for their constant co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. P. BEATTY.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District (acres)	...	...	...	48,691
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	15
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	19,990
Number of Inhabited Houses (Approximately)	...	...	...	5,255
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£104,266
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£426
Number of new houses erected in 1948	...	...	...	97
By private enterprise	...	...	...	9
By Local Authority	...	...	...	88
Number of Domestic Dwellings connected to main water supply in H.R.D.C. Water undertaking Area	...	...	...	55
Number of Domestic Dwellings connected to main water supply in Swindon Borough Water undertaking Area	...	...	...	61

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The boundaries of the Highworth Rural District are very clearly defined, they are surrounded by Cricklade, Wootton Bassett, Faringdon, Marlborough, Ramsbury and Cirencester Rural District Councils, and in addition the Swindon Borough.

Much has been said of the characteristics of the area in past Reports and it is quite unnecessary to cover again details already given, but one vital factor appears to have been left out, and that is the genuine rural character of this rural area. This may be due to larger Parishes adjoining Swindon Borough having become dormitories for workers in the Town of Swindon who wish for, and obtain, a rural atmosphere and homes in better and healthier surroundings with a greater living space.

Apart from these physical features, the occupants are mainly engaged in agriculture or occupations ancillary to agriculture. The Villages and Hamlets are picturesque and charming, with downlands on the south side as beautiful as any in the Country. Visitors

to the area readily appreciate the care of the Highworth Rural District Council to prevent spoilage of the country-side and bad planning, so often seen in many heavily built-up areas.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The Chemical and Bacteriological examination of water samples are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Salisbury General Infirmary.

I wish to place on record the advice and help received from the Pathological Department whenever this is needed.

Chemical specimens and other Bacteriological works are carried out by the Ministry of Health Laboratory attached to the Swindon Isolation Hospital. All other tests are carried out by the Pathological Department to the Salisbury General Infirmary, this includes the milk samples from Retail Purveyors of milk.

(b) Hospital and Ambulance Facilities.

All cases of infectious disease can be treated at the Swindon and District Isolation Hospital, but the changes envisaged under the National Health Schemes are in transitional stages and a more detailed report will be made in 1949. No difficulties have been met with under the Scheme to date, with the exception of treatment required for the aged and infirm who are in need of care and attention under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and this it is understood is mainly due to the shortage of beds and/or accommodation.

Notifiable Diseases in the Highworth Rural District Area.

Acute Polyomyelitis.	Malaria.
Acute Polio Encephalitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Cholera.	Pneumonia (All Forms).
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
Continued Fever	Relapsing Fever
Diphtheria	Small-pox.
Dysentery	Scarlet Fever.
Enteric Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).
Erysipelas.	Typhus Fever.
Encephalitis Lethargica.	Typhoid Fever
Measles.	Whooping Cough.

Scabies and Contagious Diseases.

The Swindon Borough Cleansing Station was closed down in 1948 without notification to this Department which caused much delay to persons suffering from Scabies.

Persons now suffering from this complaint are issued with the requisite amount of a propriety brand of cleansing cream, good results have been obtained.

Fumigation of Bedding and Clothing.

Bedding and similar articles are treated by steam at the steam disinfection station attached to the Swindon and District Isolation Hospital, Gorse Hill, Swindon. No charge is made for fumigation carried out for cases of Infectious Diseases, but a charge of £1. 1s. 0d. is made for fumigation of bedding etc. when carried out by request where no infectious disease is notified.

Incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

No cases of Diphtheria in the area have been notified during the year, this being the third year in succession that no cases have been reported.

The cases of Scarlet Fever reported were a very mild form mainly from one large built-up area and appeared to be due to contact between young children at play.

Cancer — Treatment.

Surgical Treatment is given at the Swindon Victoria Hospital, and the British Railway Medical Fund Society's Hospital, Swindon, and at St. Margaret's Hospital, Stratton St. Margaret.

Extract from Vital Statistics.

Live Births		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	.....	305	168	196
Illegitimate .....	.....	21	10	11
TOTAL		406	178	207
Still-Births		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	.....	6	2	4
Illegitimate .....	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		6	2	4
		Total	Male	Female
Deaths		199	101	98
		Age Groups		Number
Deaths from Cancer		25-35		1
		35-45		3
		45-55		5
		55-65		6
		65 and upwards		23
TOTAL				38

Tuberculosis — New Cases and Mortality During 1948.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	1	1	..	..	1	2	..	..
25	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
35	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	..
45	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
55	3	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
65	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Upwards	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
TOTALS:	8	6	2	..	8	6	..	1

Prevalence of and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The distribution and incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases is indicated in the following tabular statements. It is satisfactory to note the reduction in the cases of Scarlet Fever and the complete absence of Diphtheria. The number of cases occurring during the past six years are given for comparison.

Year	Scarlet Fever				Diphtheria	
1942	-	-	22	-	-	3
1943	-	-	41	-	-	4
1944	-	-	10	-	-	12
1945	-	-	10	-	-	4
1946	-	-	12	-	-	Nil.
1947	-	-	11	-	-	Nil.
Year under review.						
1948	-	-	11	-	-	Nil.

Distribution in Parishes.

Parish	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Totals
Bishopstone	4	..	..	..	4
Blunsdon	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Castle Eaton	21	3	..	..	24
Chiseldon	2	..	..	..	2
Hannington	7	..	..	7
Haydon Wick	19	16	..	..	39
Highworth	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	3
Inglesham	5	..	..	6
Liddington	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
South Marston	2	..	..	..	2
Stanton Fitzwarren	1	..	..	..	1
Stratton St. Margaret	10	2	..	8	..	..	98	32	2	1	153
Wanborough	16	3	..	..	19
Wroughton	1	..	..	8	3	..	..	12
TOTALS	12	2	..	13	..	..	171	72	2	1	273

Analysis under Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 and upwards	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Total all ages
Diphtheria	::	::	::	1::	::	::	::	2::	::	12::
Scarlet Fever	::	2	9	1	1::	::	::	2	::	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	::	::	::	1	1	::	::	1	::	13
Cerebro Spinal Fever	::	::	::	1::	::	::	::	2::	::	171
Pneumonia	::	2	3	1	3	3	1	2	4	72
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	2::	::	2
Measles	6	77	84	4	1	::	::	1	::	1
Whooping Cough	2	43	26	::	2	::	::	1	::	2
Erysipelas	::	.	::	::	1	::	::	1	::	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	::	::	::	::	::	1	::	1	::	1
TOTALS	8	124	122	7	7	4	1	9	4	273

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under one year
Total of cases Certified and Uncertified	6	1	1	1	9	1	::	::	1	11
Measles	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Whooping Cough	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diphtheria and Croup	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Influenza	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Tuberculous Meningitis	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Tuberculous Intestinal	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Other Tuberculosis	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Syphilis	::	::	::	1	1	::	::	::	::	1
Meningitis (not T.B.)	::	::	::	1	1	::	::	::	::	1
Convulsions	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Gastritis	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diarrhoea	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Congenital Malform	1	::	::	::	1	::	::	::	::	1
Neoplasm	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Debility	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Icterus	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Premature Birth	3	::	1	::	4	::	::	::	::	4
Injury at Birth	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Marasmus	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Asphyxia	1	::	::	::	1	::	::	::	::	1
Infant Enteritis	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Bronchial Pneumonia	1	::	::	::	1	1	::	::	1	3
Hæmorrhagic Disease	::	1	::	::	1	::	::	::	::	1
TOTALS	6	1	1	1	9	1	::	::	1	11

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report of the work carried out by the Public Health Department of the Council during the year 1948.

The tables and particulars of report are in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 received in January.

I apologise for any delay in this report but this has been mainly due to other urgent duties and reorganisation of my Department.

The work of my Department is preventative rather than curative and in consequence any danger to public health is relieved before serious consequences follow, a good instance of this is shown by continual advantage being taken of Diphtheria Immunization and it will be noted in this Report that no cases of Diphtheria have been notified for the third year in succession; in a similar way all the water supplies in the area are regularly sampled to prevent any serious outbreak of water-borne diseases. I therefore hope the Council will readily appreciate that when the public health of their area is good in general terms, this so often shows the work carried out by my Department and its associate Departments.

This Report would be incomplete without me being able to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee, and also the Chairman of the Council, for the help and understanding of my many problems, and their willingness to discuss them at all times, both in and out of office hours. I would also like to thank the Members of the Council for their co-operation in all matters concerned with my Department which make for smooth working and efficiency.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. G. UNDERWOOD.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Number and nature of inspection during 1948.		Year	
		1947	1948
Number of complete housing inspections under the Rural Housing Survey	... ..	469	457
Number of detailed inspections made for housing complaints under the Rural Housing Survey	... ..	193	293
Number of inspections re drainage of property	...	59	111
„ „ „ „ dirty and verminous premises	...	26	37
„ „ „ „ Requisitioned properties	...	83	25
„ „ „ „ Council House applications	...	295	755
„ „ „ „ numbering of houses	...	8	Nil.
„ „ Interviews with owners/agents and builders	...	196	93
„ „ Inspections re application for building licences	... ..	309	159
„ „ „ „ suitability of domestic water supplies	... ..	158	197
„ „ „ „ sampling of water supplies	...	89	60
„ „ „ „ food premises	...	29	16
„ „ „ „ camps and squatters	...	395	425
„ „ „ „ Ice-cream production	...	27	13
„ „ „ „ tents, vans, and sheds, etc.	...	115	53
„ „ „ „ keeping of animals	...	21	11
„ „ „ „ under the Factory Act, 1937	...	89	93
„ „ „ „ re offensive trades	...	8	7
„ „ „ „ Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	316	273
„ „ „ „ of Bakehouses	...	11	15
„ „ „ „ of Knackers Yards	...	36	8
„ „ „ „ re ditches and streams	...	11	27
„ „ „ „ under Shop Acts	...	18	16
„ „ „ „ re Overcrowding	...	29	18
„ „ „ „ under Milk and Dairies Orders	... ..	319	163
„ „ Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal	... ..	221	384
„ „ Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	27	3
„ „ Inspections re Infectious Diseases, etc.	...	27	16
„ „ Miscellaneous unspecified visits	...	195	43
„ „ Meat Inspections	... ..	Nil.	35
„ „ Inspections re: taking of lodgers in Council Houses	... ..	Nil.	263
TOTAL:		3779	4069

Number of Petroleum Licences issued in 1948	...	50	60
„ „ Carbide Licences issued in 1948	...	4	4
„ „ Informal letters sent to owners, agents etc.	211	302	
„ „ Preliminary Notices	...	28	62
„ „ Statutory Notices	...	4	10
„ „ Court Cases taken during year for enforcement	...	3	6
„ „ Statutory Notices outstanding at end of the year	...	0	2

Eradication of Vermin.

All cases of flea and bug infestations were dealt with during the year by either D.D.T. Vapour Generators and/or a propriety brand of Bug Spray with residual D.D.T. Content. The use of the D.D.T. Generator was found to be extremely efficient and simple in operation and is to be recommended. Repeat treatment in all cases was found to be unnecessary. The rarity of Bug infestation in the area is most noticeable.

Factory Act, 1937.

The following list of Factories and workplaces in the District gives some idea of the small industries in the area and is to be expected in a Rural Area of this kind. In several cases following previous inspection and advice given, the sanitary accommodation was reconstructed or redesigned to the advantage of the workers. In addition Fire Certificates have been granted to the larger Factories in the area and in general terms the Factories and Workshops in the area are up to standards required under the Factory Act, 1937.

Paper Baling	...	1
Bakers and Confectioners	...	16
Blacksmiths	...	5
Brickmaking	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	3
Engineering, including garages	...	23
Mat and Rug Making	...	1
Sausage Making	...	1
Joinery, Woodworking, Undertaking	...	10
Rope Making	...	1
Tailoring	...	2
Poultry, Tallowmelting, and Metal Sorting	...	1
Saw Milling	...	3
Brewing, aerated water, etc	...	1
Boot Repair	...	1

Upholstery	...	...	...	1
Crop Drying	...	...	...	1
Bacon Curing	...	...	...	1
Food Canning	...	...	...	1
Meat Distributors	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
TOTAL:				76
				<hr/>

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

During the year a new Dennis 10 cubic yard vehicle was put into operation, in addition to the 7 cubic yard Ford Refuse Vehicle. The Scammel Articulated Lorry being disposed of due to its age and condition. Both Vehicles are subdivided to give loading space for salvaged materials and the space allowed, is found to be adequate for both salvage and refuse. Engaged in refuse collection are two regular drivers and a reserve driver, two refuse loaders and two tipmen, one of whom is on salvaged paper baling full-time.

It is felt that during 1949, a further man will be needed due to the increased salvage and refuse collection and improvements to be carried out at the Controlled Tips.

Parish			Cubic yard
Bishopstone	...	...	150
Blunsdon St. Andrew	...	...	200
Castle Eaton	...	...	80
Chiseldon	...	...	1056
Hannington	...	...	80
Haydon Wick	...	...	160
Highworth	...	...	2406
Inglesham	...	...	70
Liddington	...	...	138
South Marston	...	...	160
Stanton Fitzwarren	...	...	70
Stratton St. Margaret	...	...	3360
Wanborough	...	...	200
Wroughton	...	...	1232
			<hr/>
TOTAL:			9362

The tipping of refuse is now carried out at a disused clay quarry at North Wroughton, of some 13 acres in extent under the Bradford Controlled Tipping Method. The new tip was levelled and developed for this purpose during 1948, under the writer's supervision, and is giving satisfaction to the Council.

The tip receives regular treatment both for Rodent Control and Fly Infestation.

The collection in the larger Parishes is once per week, and in the smaller more isolated Parishes once per fortnight. No special collection being found necessary for salvage.

I feel that the time is drawing near when the collection on a weekly basis should be considered by the Council and preparation made for the collection to be made from the rear of all premises. The carrying of dustbins from the rear of premises to the front gate is both difficult and dangerous to the aged and infirm living alone and persons crippled or in poor health.

I consider the Refuse Collections and Disposal as a whole, has improved due to the methods put in hand during 1948.

Salvage Collection and Disposal.

The following tables shew the weights and value of salvaged materials collected and disposed of during the years 1947-1948, and I am pleased to report that each shew an increase over the previous year. For the second year since this Department took over these duties, the increase is most noticeable in waste paper, and in some measure this may be due to the increased payment of Bonus over £450, the bonus being lifted in 1948 to 20% instead of 10%.

I find the workers now eager to collect as much as possible with the ultimate benefits to all concerned.

The total value of salvageable materials in 1946 was £417 1 0d.

	1947						1948					
	Weight			Value			Weight			Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q. lbs	£	s.	d.
Paper	50	0	2	321	5	11	69	19	1	446	3	5
Rags	3	3	3	59	7	4	3	10	1 21	77	6	4
Sacking	1	5	0	8	13	0	2	12	3 23	18	11	5
Bones	10	3		2	18	7	—	5	— —	1	6	3
Non-Ferrous Metals	2	2		6	16	6	—	—	3 —	1	1	3
Ferrous Metals	3	14	0	8	5	11	14	10	2 —	36	19	3
Rubber							1	17	1 —	2	5	9
Bottles	787	doz.		111	17	10	386	Doz.		50	6	0
Jam jars	619	doz.		35	17	0	495	doz.		24	15	0
Bonus Increased Paper				15	5	4				20	14	6
TOTAL				570	7	5				679	9	2

Outworkers.

Inspection of all outworkers in the area which were notified to this Department, have been carried out during the year, and in all cases home conditions were found to be satisfactory and no action was necessary. There are now 19 outworkers employed in the area, general employment is on glove making and fancy goods etc.

Shops Acts.

Due to the size and type of the District only few inspections were found necessary. There are 163 Shops in the District mainly family concerns with only few cases of outside employment of Staff.

Public Houses.

In the 1947 Annual Report, I reported on the unsatisfactory conditions found in respect of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. I am pleased to report that in the majority of cases brought to the notice of the owners, new works have been carried out or are in progress in 1949, and have resulted in more hygienic conditions both for the public and tenants of the Public Houses and Hotels. I consider that the efforts and persistence have been well worth while.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Rural Housing Survey Details for the Year 1948.

1. Approximate number of houses in the Area ...	5,255
2. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for schedule of defects, measured, survey sheets typed, and recorded in the Housing Survey Register ...	1,898
3. Number of houses measured not in above and not yet inspected for schedule of defects ...	519

4. Categorisation of Houses Inspected.

Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 4	Cat. 5	Total
810	287	369	123	309	1898

The comprehensive Rural Housing Survey for the District is proceeding very slowly due to the pressure of other urgent works mainly in connection with the inspection of Council House applications and it will be noticed in the Report that these inspections have increased greatly on the inspections for 1947. However, the work is not being stopped and the completed survey should be ready for the time when action can be taken under the Housing Act, 1936.

The Parishes completed in all respects are as follows:

Wroughton	South Marston
Chiseldon	Liddington
Bishopstone	Stratton St. Margaret (Part)
Wanborough	Blunsdon (Part)

It should be noted that approximately 1/6th of the houses inspected in these Parishes to date, are by County Standards not fit in all respects for human habitation, and action should be taken under the Housing Act, 1936, in these cases as and when the housing situation is improved.

Action taken under the Housing Act, 1926 and Public Health Act, 1936.

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requesting defects to be remedied	302
2. Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	10

Proceedings under Section II, Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
2. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by this Local Authority	Nil.

Housing Overcrowding.

1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year	3
2. Number of inspections made re overcrowding ...	210

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The part-time Rodent Operator employed by this Authority is trained in the methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and works under supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. During the year the Council adopted the financial assistance Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries for the first time.

All the sewers in the District were pre-baited and poisoning took place where infestation was found, this work is being carried out on a rota basis.

I am satisfied that the work carried out during the year was both efficient and very successful. Upon the receipt of any complaint of rat infestation block inspections are carried out of the area surrounding the complaint, in addition, there is close liaison between the W.A.E.C. Pests Department and this Department.

The two refuse tips used by this Authority receive regular treatment but I am pleased to say that due to the Bradford Controlled tip system which is employed, no major infestation takes place, infestation being mainly spasmodic.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The major infestation of the Knackers Yard reported in my previous Annual Report, now only needs investigation and treatment once or twice per year and is now considered to be only of a minor nature.

It is felt that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Pests Officer is satisfied by the methods adopted by this District Council, and no complaints have been received from them on any serious matters.

Water Supplies.

The water supply for the whole of the Highworth Rural District Council during 1948, has been satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity. Bacteriological examination of the raw water at standpipes and taps situated throughout the District, were carried out on a monthly rota, and in addition, Chemical Analysis at source from the Public Supplies of this water undertaking were taken and all were found to be satisfactory.

The Highworth Rural District Council are the water undertakers for the whole of their District, with the exception of the Parishes of Stratton, part of Wroughton, and Haydon Wick. The village of Bishopstone is supplied by arrangements with the Rural District Council from a private water supply administered by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England; but it is felt the time is drawing near when this supply should be controlled and administered by the Rural District Council and thereby give greater facilities for supplying mains water to Parishioners/Owners in the Parish.

The waters are not subject to plumbo-solvent action, regular samples have also been taken, as can be seen by this Report, on private supplies in small Hamlets and individual supplies, if any contamination is found in either of these samples, the owners are at once notified of the form of contamination and advice given which should be taken to clear up the contamination, or the owners are advised, to connect to the mains. Many well supplies have been connected during the year. In addition, following these samples, extension of the mains are well in hand and should be completed in 1949, in the Parish of South Marston, the Hamlet of Badbury, and part of the Parish of Wanborough, it is hoped that during 1949, certain action will be taken with regard to the Hamlet of Sevenhampton, in the Parish of Highworth.

The Tabular Form below sets out the Parish and source of supply of water for every Parish, followed by as up-to-date record as can be given of Parishes and the number of persons taking a supply of water from mains, standtaps, wells etc.

Full details of the supply of water, and the amounts taken from various Hamlets and Parishes were submitted in the 1947 Report, and I consider it unnecessary to reiterate this information.

There is at present 42 miles of Distribution main in the Council's area, the length of which will be extended in early 1949, the mains are varying in diameter from 8 in. downwards. The quantity of water taken from the mains is approximately 169,000 gallons per annum of which 65,000 gallons per annum are taken by meters to Farms and Trade purposes.


The mains water is available in all Parishes with the exception of South Marston which will be connected in 1949, but not all premises in this Parish are connected or have mains available.

Parish		Source
Bishopstone	...	Spring water from the Lammy Downs.
Blunsdon St. Andrew	...	Borehole at Latton—Swindon Corporation supply.
Castle Eaton	...	Borehole at Ashton Keynes—Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Council Supply.
Chiseldon	... ..	Wells at Ogbourne St. George—Swindon Corporation supply.
Hannington	... ..	Borehole at Latton—Swindon Corporation supply.
Haydon Wick	...	Do. Do.
Highworth	... ..	Do. Do.
Inglesham	... ..	Do. Do.
Liddington	...	Borehole at Ham Road, Wanborough—Highworth Rural supply.
South Marston	...	No public supply—private wells.
Stanton Fitzwarren	...	Borehole at Latton—Swindon Corporation supply.
Stratton St. Margaret	...	Do. Do.
Wanborough	...	Borehole at Ham Road, Wanborough—Highworth Rural supply, supplemented by water from an Adit in the hills.
Wroughton	... ..	Three sources: Markham heading springs. Wells at Gadbourne—Highworth Rural supply for approximately one-third of the parish, the remainder being supplied from boreholes at Ogbourne St. George—Swindon Corporation supply.

Parish	Approx. No. of persons taking a supply from Mains	Approx. No. of persons taking a supply from Standpipes	Approx. No. of persons supplied by Wells or other source	Approx. Total population estimated 1949
Bishopstone	240	100	310	650
Blunsdon St. Andrew	150	377	561	1088
Castle Eaton	50	160	15	225
Chiseldon	1483	40	577	2100
Hannington	—	110	144	254
Haydon Wick	400	38	—	438
Highworth	2220	256	947	3413
Inglesham	130	—	20	150
Liddington	220	80	80	380
South Marston	—	—	450	450
Stanton Fitzwarren	50	90	7	147
Stratton St. Margaret	4685	618	877	6180
Wanborough	570	150	480	1200
Wroughton	2700	282	333	3315
TOTAL	12898	2301	4801	19990

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Full details for all Parishes were given in the 1947 Report, and a brief description of the availability is submitted in tabular form as follows:—

Parish	Description
Bishopstone Blunsdon St. Andrew Castle Eaton Inglesham Liddington South Marston Stanton Fitzwarren Wanborough	 These Parishes have no proper sewerage system.
Chiseldon ...	... The built-up area of the Parish is sewered, the works comprising detritus tanks, settling tanks, storm water tank and treatment by land irrigation.
Haydon Wick	... The built-up area of the Parish is sewered, the works comprising a settling tank and treatment by land irrigation.

Highworth	...	...	The built-up portion of the Parish (excepting the Hamlets of Hampton and Sevenhampton) are sewered, sewage is discharged at two works one at Westrop and the other at Eastrop. At Eastrop there are two settling tanks and one at Westrop. Treatment at both works is by land irrigation.
Stratton St. Margaret	...		The built-up portion of the Parish is sewered, the works comprise detritus tanks, settling tanks, bacteria beds and humus tanks, together with storm tanks, the effluent is discharged into the River Cole. This is a comparatively modern plant
Wroughton	...	...	The built-up portion of the Parish is sewered, the works comprise detritus tanks, settling tanks, bacteria beds, humus tanks and storm tanks. This is a comparatively modern plant being constructed in 1936.

No important additions have been made during 1948 but it is felt works of improvement are required at Stratton St. Margaret sewage works.

A public enquiry was held regarding a scheme amounting to £53,000 for the Parish of Highworth, and was approved in principle, but due to shortage of labour and materials certain works in the scheme had to be deleted and it is not known when this work will be proceeded with.

Report on samples of Water submitted for Analysis.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIES.

Where Taken	Parish	Result	Action Taken	Bacterio-logical	Chemical
Upper Wick Farm	Liddington	Gross	Notified owners New Water Main to be laid by Local Authority	Yes	No
Coate,		Pollution			
West Hinton Farm	Bishopstone	"			
Hinton Parva	"	"			
High Bank Cotts.	"	"			
Grove Cotts. (Diphole)	"	"			
Elm Tree Cotts.	"	"	Notified owners	"	"
West Hinton Farm Cottages	"	"			
Forty Cottage	"	Moderate	"	"	"
		Degree			
Russley Park	Wanborough	Slight	"	"	"
		Degree			
Earls Court Farm	Bishopstone	Gross	"	"	"
		Pollution			
Spring at City	"	"	"	"	"
The Beeches	Blunsdon	Slight			
		Pollution	"	"	"
Ermin St.	"	Considerable			
(Recreation Ground)		Pollution	"	"	"
Chapel Hill	"	"			
77 Westrop	Highworth	"	"	"	"
Old Post Office	S. Marston	"			
11/12 Kingsdown Rd.	Stratton	Moderate	"	"	"
		Pollution			
17 Green Lane	Wroughton	Heavy	"	"	"
		Pollution			
Elcombe House	"	Considerable	"	"	"
		Pollution			
17 Marlborough Rd.....	"	Slight	"	"	"
		Pollution			
Hinton Marsh Farm	Bishopstone	Gross	"	"	"
		Pollution			
30 St. Philips Rd.	Stratton	"	"	"	"
202, 203 Oxford Rd.	"	"			
		"	"	"	"

Report on samples of Water submitted for Analysis.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Where Taken	Parish	Result	Action Taken	Bacterio-logical	Chemical
2 Perry's Lane.	Wroughton	Satisfactory	Nil	Yes	Yes
Post Office (Standpipe)	Liddington	"	"	"	"
"Headlands" Ham Road.	"	"	"	"	No
Medbourne Road	"	"	"	"	"
(Standpipe)	"	"	"	"	"
Ambrose Cottage,	"	"	"	"	"
Callas Hill	Wanborough	"	"	"	"
Whitehouse	"	"	"	"	"
(Standpipe)	"	"	"	"	Yes
Castle Eaton Farm	"	"	"	"	"
(Standpipe)	Castle Eaton	"	"	"	No
Post Office (Standpipe)	"	"	"	"	"
School (Standpipe)	"	"	"	"	Yes
41 Wharf Rd.	Wroughton	"	"	"	No
4 Castle View	Chiseldon	"	"	"	"
Nell Farm	Hannington	"	"	"	Yes
The Green (Standpipe)	Highworth	"	"	"	No
42 High St.	Haydon	"	"	"	"
	Wick	"	"	"	"
19 Okus Grove	Stratton	"	"	"	"
Butts Road	Chiseldon	"	"	"	"
4 Canney	"	"	"	"	"
5 High St.	Haydon	"	"	"	"
	Wick	"	"	"	"
Squatters Camp	Stratton	"	"	"	Yes
Slipper Lane.	Chiseldon	"	"	"	"
The Ridge,	"	"	"	"	"
Medbourne Rd.	"	"	"	"	No
3 Hunts Copse Cott.	Stanton	"	"	"	"
	Fitzwarren	"	"	"	"
Priors Hill (Standpipe)	Wroughton	"	"	"	"
"Connifers" Kite Hill	Wanboro'	"	"	"	"

Report on Samples of Water submitted for Analysis

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

	Parish	Result	Action Taken	Bacteriological	Chemical
40 Badbury Wick (Standpipe)	Chiseldon	Considerable Pollution	Notified owners	Yes	No
Wirdnams Cottage (Standpipe)	Hodson	Slight Pollution	"	"	"
41 Badbury Wick (Standpipe)	Chiseldon	"	"	"	"
3 Ridgeway, Foxhill (Standpipe)	Wanborough	"	"	"	"
Old Cottage, Foxhill (Standpipe)	"	Satisfactory		"	"
1 Ridgeway, Foxhill (Standpipe)	"	Slight Pollution	Notified owners	"	"
Post Office, Hinton Parva (Standpipe)	Bishopstone	"	"	"	"
" " " " " " " "	"	Satisfactory		"	"
Oxon Place	"	"		"	"
Hilldrop, Butts Road	Chiseldon	"		"	"
The Street (Standpipe)	Seven- hampton	"		"	"
" " " " " " " "	"	Slight Pollution	Notified owners	"	"
" " " " " " " "	"	"	"	"	"
2. Burderop	Chiseldon	"	"	"	"

Council House Tenancies.

It will be seen from the general statistics that 88 new Council owned houses were erected during the year and the Council held some 550 applications for Council Houses. Following grading of the applications, further screening of the applications was carried out by inspections of each case in each Parish when houses were ready for occupation, and the results of these investigations of the housing conditions submitted to the Housing Tenancy Panel for the Parish concerned, together with recommendations in accordance with Section 85 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In no sphere of Local Authority work is the chance of criticism so great as in the letting of Council owned property, and although great care and impartiality is the keynote of this Department in the work concerned, some criticism has naturally followed. In the main this was often due to cases which were pressed by individual Councillors against the more unbiased or factual recommendations of the Housing Department. In most cases the work of letting the houses was carried out with a feeling of co-operation between Councillors and Officials, and the official view was often accepted together with the Councillors local knowledge of individual cases.

Squatters Camps.

It was decided during the year 1948, by the Public Health Committee, following recommendation, that no vacated huts should be relet and the huts vacated should be demolished, and this policy has been carried out. Fair treatment was also given to persons on Camps for re-housing, the up to-date details are given of occupation on all Camps in this District in the table below.

On all but the Burderop Camp, the conditions are primitive and the huts are beyond repair, in fact it is felt that unless the tenants are re-housed the general fabric of the huts will cause serious deterioration to the health of the inmates during the next winter. Every effort is made to carry out urgent repairs and maintain all essential services. The payment of rent, rates, and charges for electricity are well maintained by the tenants.

One interesting fact has been noted by the writer, that is the tendency for the poor type of tenant to further deteriorate on occupation of these huts, and for a rapid improvement in the general standards of home conditions of all occupants of these huts when re-housed. I feel sure that if given a chance of a good home nearly all cases will justify this by the standards they will maintain.

Situation of Camp	No. of Families		Spare Accommodation	Water	Electricity	Sanitary Accommodation
	1948	1947				
Stanton Fitzwarren	7	9	Not to be re-let	Main Supply	Yes	Pail Closets
Stratton St. Margaret	23	29	„	„	„	Water and Pail Closets
Wanborough	25	29	„	„	No	Pail Closets
Burderop Camp	39	39	Waiting List	„	Yes	Water Closets
Blunsdon	15	24	Not to be re-let	„	No	„
Wroughton	2	2	Waiting List	„	Yes	„
TOTAL	111.132					

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Parish	No. of farms in Parish		Head of cattle in Parish	
Bishopstone	...	16	...	1067
Blunsdon St. Andrew	...	30	...	1231
Castle Eaton	...	4	...	561
Chiseldon	...	15	...	1373
Hannington	...	14	...	817
Haydon Wick	...	9	...	341
Highworth	...	34	...	2152
Inglesham	...	6	...	430
Liddington	...	11	...	705
South Marston	...	17	...	748
Stanton Fitzwarren	...	4	...	165
Stratton St. Margaret	...	27	...	581
Wanborough	...	34	...	1267
Wroughton	...	57	...	1706
		—		—
		278		13144
		—		—

MILK SUPPLY

	1948	1947	1946	1945
Number of Registered Cowkeepers	235	223	238	233
„ „ Tuberculin Tested Producers	54	45	26	18
„ „ Accredited Producers	63	65	71	59
„ „ Retail Purveyors	40	40	40	—

The Department's policy of pushing for higher standards of milk production consequent upon regular inspection of cowkeepers in the area is proved by the above increase in Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Producers, and also many Producers are far more interested in producing Tuberculin Tested milk than producing Pasteurized Milk.

I reported last year the improvement in the buildings connected with milk production and 1948 saw many new cowsheds and dairies built up to Tuberculin Tested Standards, if they were not used for this standard of milk it was also noticeable that the standard of cattle in the cowsheds were on the upgrade and far fewer "screws" were seen in the cowsheds visited. The young farmer is also keenly interested in milk production in all its phases, and more often than not is pleased to see an Inspector who can be helpful with his many problems and no longer does he need reminding of the need for clean methods of production. Special attention was paid to the known dirty producers with fairly good results but in some cases these producers would be better out of the trade altogether.

No complaints of dirty milk were received from the County Inspector.

Meat Inspection.

The Stratton St. Margaret Bacon Factory was put into operation during 1948, for the slaughter of cottagers pigs and curing of Bacon for the self supplier. Three other slaughterhouses were licenced in the area at convenient points in the District. In addition to the Slaughterhouse at the Stratton St. Margaret Bacon Factory a large Canning Factory was nearing completion in 1948, and will be in operation in 1949.

Full inspection of all pigs slaughtered at the Bacon Factory has been carried out, and diseased condition brought to the notice of the owners by certificates. The methods and buildings are up to-date and every help and facility is given to the inspectors by the management. I feel sure that this factory will in time be an asset to the District and will be run under careful and hygienic conditions.

	Pigs.
Number Killed	194
Number Inspected	194
All Diseases except T.B.	
Whole Carcases Condemed ...	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6
T.B. Only	
Whole Carcases Condemed ...	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8

The slaughter of Animals for human consumption is carried out at the Government Centralised Slaughterhouse situated in the Swindon Borough.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year the following articles of food were found to be unfit for the food of man, and surrender notes were issued accordingly.

38 bags of Cauliflower.
44 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese
49 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Lamb
215 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Beef
158 lbs. Corned Beef
25 lbs. Dried Peas
18 Tins Various Food. 24 lbs.
4 Pigs Heads
4 „ Kidneys
1 „ Liver
4 „ Mesenteries
1 „ Spleen
4 „ Lungs
1 „ Pluck

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The total number of licenced slaughtermen in this Rural District area from December 1948 was 23. Three new licences having been granted since 1947, the persons licenced were up to the required standard under the above Act.

Sale of Ice-Cream and Ice-Cream Premises.

Routine inspections have been carried out of premises where ice-cream is sold either pre-packed or manufactured, during 1948. There are two places where ice-cream is manufactured and both comply with the necessary standards, in the rest of the cases the ice-cream is purchased in bulk supplies pre-packed, and stored at regular temperature by refrigeration. No difficulties were met with under this heading during 1948.

ACTION UNDER FACTORY ACT, 1937.

INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Number of		M/c line No. (7)
				Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	60	74	5	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	16	16	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		76	93	5	Nil	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	6	6	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	7	7	—	1	—	60

OUTWORKERS (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	M/c line No.	Section 110				Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. Cleaning and washing	13	19	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	13	
	14							14	

